

Application No. 10/784,938
Amendment dated June 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

Docket No.: 21581-00186-US3

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

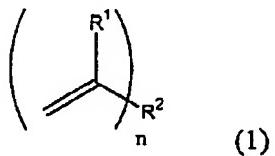
1. (Original) A chain-extended polymer or stellar polymer which is obtainable by polymerizing a vinyl monomer in the manner of living radical polymerization and adding a compound having two or more polymerizable carbon-carbon double bonds at the end of the polymerization.

2. (Original) The chain-extended polymer or stellar polymer according to Claim 1, which is prepared by polymerizing at least one kind of vinyl monomers selected from among (meth)acrylic monomers, acrylonitrile monomers, aromatic vinyl monomers, fluorine-containing vinyl monomers and silicon-containing vinyl monomers.

3. (Original) A composition which comprises, as an essential component, a hydroxyl-terminated polymer falling under the polymer according to Claim 2 and a compound having, in each molecule thereof, not less than two functional groups reactive with the hydroxyl group.

4. (Original) A composition which comprises, as an essential component, a hydroxyl-terminated polymer falling under the polymer according to Claim 1 and a compound having, in each molecule thereof, not less than two functional groups reactive with the hydroxyl group.

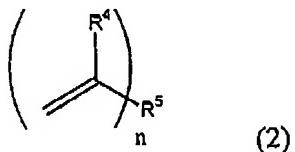
5. (New) The chain-extended polymer or stellar polymer according to Claim 1 wherein the compound having two or more polymerizable carbon-carbon double bonds is a compound represented by a chemical formula selected from the group consisting of general formulas 1, 2 and 3 shown below:



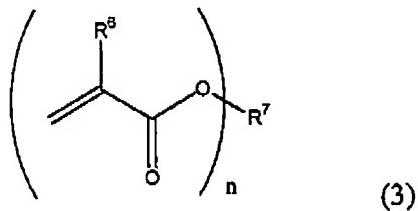
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wherein R¹ is a group selected from the group consisting of Ph, CN and CO₂R³, R³ being a monovalent organic group, R² is an organic group having a valency of not less than two and n is an integer of not less than 2;

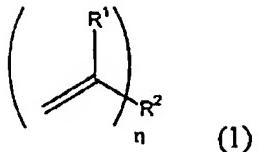


wherein R⁴ is H, Me or a group selected from the group consisting of organic groups containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, R⁵ is an organic group having two or more substituted groups and n is an integer of 2 or more;



wherein R⁶ is H, Me, CN or a group selected from the group consisting of organic groups containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, R⁷ is an organic group having a valency of not less than two and n is an integer of not less than 2.

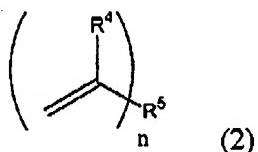
6. (New) The chain-extended polymer or stellar polymer according to Claim 2 wherein the compound having two or more polymerizable carbon-carbon double bonds is a compound represented by a chemical formula selected from the group consisting of general formulas 1, 2 and 3 shown below:



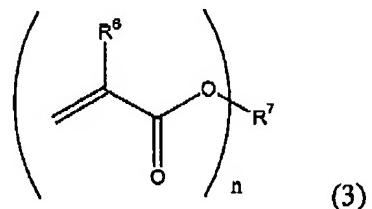
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wherein R¹ is a group selected from the group consisting of Ph, CN and CO₂R³, R³ being a monovalent organic group, R² is an organic group having a valency of not less than two and n is an integer of not less than 2;



wherein R⁴ is H, Me or a group selected from the group consisting of organic groups containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, R⁵ is a benzene or naphthalene group having two or more substituted groups and n is an integer of 2 or more;



wherein R⁶ is H, Me, CN or a group selected from the group consisting of organic groups containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, R⁷ is an organic group having a valency of not less than two and n is an integer of not less than 2.

7. (New) The chain-extended polymer or stellar polymer according to Claim 1, wherein the molecular weight distribution of the resulting polymer is not more than 2.

8. (New) The chain-extended polymer or stellar polymer according to Claim 2, wherein the molecular weight distribution of the resulting polymer is not more than 2.